

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 NEA-14 /148 W

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R 091453Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5440

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: NI, MO

SUBJECT: MORROCCAN MESSAGE TO GOWN

REF: LAGOS 6856 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: MOROCCAN SPECIAL ENVOY DELIVERED MESSAGE TO GOWON ON SPANISH SAHARA, PRESUMABLY SEEKING SUPPORT FOR GOM CLAIMS. END SUMMARY

1. MOROCCAN SPECIAL ENVOY MOHJOUBI AHERDAN MET WITH GOWON AUGUST 8 TO DELIVER MESSAGE FROM KING HASSAN ON SPANISH SAHARA. ACCORDING TO FMG PRESS RELEASE, GOWON REAFFIRMED NIGERIAN SUPPORT FOR TOTAL AFRICAN LIBERATION AND CALLED ON SPAIN TO FOLLOW RECENT PORTUGUESE EXAMPLE BY TAKING STEPS FOR RAPID SAHARA DECOLONIZATION "ACCORDING TO FREELY EXPRESSED WISHES OF PEOPLE OF TERRITORY AND WITH DUE CONSIDERATION FOR GOOD RELATIONS, PEACE AND STABILITY IN THAT PART OF AFRICA."

2. IN PRE-DEPARTURE AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE SAME DAY,
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AHERDAN ACCUSED GOS OF PLANNING TO SET UP "PUPPET GOVERNMENT"

IN SPANISH SAHARA IN ORDER TO "PROTECT CANARY ISLANDS."
DESPITE UN CALL FOR REFERENDUM, AHERDAN CONTINUED, GOS
REFUSING WITHDRAW TROOPS OR PERMIT PEOPLE FREELY EXPRESS
THEIR OWN WISHES. HE CONCLUDED THAT GOM BELIEVES FMG COULD
USE INFLUENCE IN MOROCCAN FAVOR TO SECURE "THIS PART OF OUR
COUNTRY."

3. COMMENT: AHERDAN VISIT COMES TWO WEEKS AFTER WAT OF
GIRM PRESIDENT DADDAH, WHICH ALSO PRODUCED COMMUNIQUE
REFERENCE TO DECOLONIZATION OF SPANISH SAHARA. DESPITE
AHERDAN REFERENCES AT PRESS CONFERENCE TO MOROCCAN TERRITORIAL
CLAIMS IN SAHARA, OFFICIAL FMG ACCOUNT OF GOWON'S STATEMENT
CAREFULLY MAINTAINS NIGERIAN NEUTRALITY WITH REGARD TO OFTEN-
CONFLICTING MOROCCAN AND MAURITANIAN POSITIONS ON FUTURE OF
SPANISH TERRITORY. GIVEN FMG'S UNWILLINGNESS TAKE SIDES IN
DISAGREEMENTS BETWEEN OAU MEMBER STATES, WE EXPECT NIGERIANS
WILL CONTINUE PLAY SPANISH SAHARA ISSUE IN RELATIVELY LOW
KEY UNTIL GOM AND FIRM FULLY SORT OUT THEIR DIFFERENCES.
REINHARDT

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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To: STATE
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